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BARTLETT

Charles Bartlett's

NEWS FOCUS On Washington

WASHINGTON — The proposal to have the United States and Russia join in extending a nuclear umbrella over India is not gaining momentum. The White House showed interest in the idea as a means of discouraging India from producing nuclear weapons. But Andrei Gromyko told Dean Rusk that his government will not join such a pact with its implied hostility to Red China. The Soviets will only accept a nonproliferation treaty signed by all nations and carrying the promise of the nuclear weapon to protect the non-nuclear powers. The Indians are not expected to move quickly into nuclear production because of the great expense.

Viet Peace Talk

NEWSPAPER ACCOUNTS that American bombing has hardened Hanoi's resolve against negotiating the war in Viet Nam are not accurate, according to reliable diplomatic sources. The North Vietnamese government is said to be increasingly interested in negotiations, but the Red Chinese continue to oppose any move to end the war. The Viet Cong insist at this point that they must have a voice in any coalition government established in South Viet Nam that will be proportionately equal to the territory and population which they control. This position suggests a growing readiness to carry the war to the negotiating table.

LBJ In Driver's Seat

PRESIDENT JOHNSON is said to have interceded, privately and very quietly, to persuade General Motors and Ford to post price cuts on their 1966 models. Mr. Johnson's thesis was that John F. Kennedy erred by dealing with the steel companies in an open manner. His own covert diplomacy with the industrialists is judged to have been highly

successful thus far.

Russia, Cuba Closer?

REPORTS emanating from London, where a Cuban diplomat defected recently, say that Russia is in the process of terminating aid to Castro. American and Soviet sources concur in asserting to the contrary that relations between Moscow and Havana have grown warmer in recent months. This is because Castro dismayed by Red China's failure after all the tough talk to take militant action against the American forces in Viet Nam. Intelligence detects some scattered substance to further rumours that the Cuban army is increasingly inclined to arise against Castro.

Dominican Reds Growing?

ONE of Sen. William Fulbright's key points in his celebrated speech of Sept. 15 on the Dominican intervention was that President Johnson received "exaggerated reports" of the dangers of a Communist takeover. Ambassador Tapley Bennet has drawn much criticism as the origin of these reports. An interesting sidelight, however, is that Bennet's appraisal of the situation was fully supported by the CIA station master in Santo Domingo. The present problem is that the 70-odd Communists noted by the CIA in Santo Domingo before the intervention have subsequently multiplied to as many as 4,000, according to some official estimates.

CIA Gets New Woes

CONCERN OVER the Communist propaganda campaign against the CIA is keyed to the fact that insecure leaders like the U.A.R.'s Abdul-Gamma Nasser and Kwame Nkrumah of Ghana readily accept rumours that the CIA is plotting

to assassinate them. Successful at planting fears of CIA in these men, the Communists will use similar tactics in other undeveloped countries. CIA officials profess that the agency has never undertaken to assassinate any head of state. The closest they came was in 1960 negotiations with some gangsters who were anxious to eliminate Fidel Castro and regain control of the gambling in Havana. But the gamblers ran afoul of the FBI in 1961 and the plot floundered.

Spy Game In Open

THE INCREASING brazenness of intelligence warfare is reflected in the fact that Pavel A. Lukienov, third ranking official of the Soviet Embassy in Washington, is still around six months after he was identified in a magazine article by Stewart Alsop as the chief of the Soviet intelligence apparatus in America. Both sides in the cold war have previously followed a policy of withdrawing their agents quickly after their names became known.

Nikita Book Canceled

THE NEW REGIME in Russia has quietly canceled the arrangements by a British firm to publish Nikita Khrushchev's memoirs. Publishers Roy Thompson had negotiated a deal with Khrushchev before he was deposed. A writer had been selected who was to help with the book. But when Lord Thompson went to Moscow two weeks ago to have the rare privilege of an interview with Prime Minister Alexei Kosygin, he was not even given an opportunity to see Khrushchev.